Caelan Doris Returns as Ireland Captain for Autumn Internationals

A fully recovered Caelan Doris will once again lead Ireland’s rugby squad in the upcoming Autumn Internationals, while lock Joe McCarthy has been ruled out of Andy Farrell’s roster due to injury concerns. Doris, who missed the British and Irish Lions tour earlier this year due to a poorly timed shoulder setback, has yet to feature for Leinster this season.

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He will now captain the national side as Ireland gears up for an exciting autumn campaign. Ireland will commence their November schedule with a highly anticipated fixture against New Zealand in Chicago on November 1, before returning home to face Japan, Australia, and South Africa in Dublin. However, the squad is likely to proceed without the services of McCarthy, who suffered a foot injury.

The Leinster second-rower has since undergone surgery and joins full-back Hugo Keenan (hip) on the sidelines, while his younger brother Paddy McCarthy, still uncapped, earns a surprise inclusion. Head coach Andy Farrell resumes command of the national setup after missing the Six Nations and summer series due to his British and Irish Lions coaching duties.

During his absence, Simon Easterby and Paul O’Connell each temporarily oversaw the team. The return to Chicago evokes memories of Ireland’s historic victory over

the All Blacks at Soldier Field in 2016, a landmark moment that remains etched in rugby folklore. I’m thrilled to unveil the squad for the four fixtures this November, Farrell said.

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Farrell Finalizes Squad and Eyes Strong Start to Autumn Internationals 2025

There’s a vibrant mix within the group, offering chances for seasoned players and those who made their debuts during the summer tour to Georgia and Portugal. This November’s Autumn Internationals 2025 Series is poised to be a tremendous examination, with four top-class southern hemisphere opponents, each coming off demanding schedules and determined to close their seasons on a high.

Our opening encounter with New Zealand in Chicago for the Gallagher Cup during the Autumn Internationals will be a major occasion, and I’m confident our devoted Irish supporters will once again pack the stands in this vibrant city at a world-class venue. Alongside Keenan and McCarthy, Ulster’s Cormac Izuchukwu and Munster winger Calvin Nash also miss selection due to injuries.

However, uncapped Munster forwards Edwin Edogbo and Brian Gleeson, along with Connacht’s Shayne Bolton, who debuted earlier in the year against Portugal, will travel to Chicago as cover options. During Farrell’s absence earlier this year, Simon

Easterby guided Ireland through the Six Nations, achieving four victories from five matches.

Yet despite their solid campaign, Ireland only secured third place, prompting debate among fans and analysts that the side had stagnated under interim leadership. Since then, Sam Prendergast has claimed the number 10 jersey, showcasing creativity and poise, but his position is under pressure from Munster's Jack Crowley, who has been pushing hard for inclusion.

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Ireland Vs New Zealand: Farrell Backs Depth as Ireland Target Autumn Success

With the United Rugby Championship still in its early stages, there has been limited opportunity for emerging players to make a breakthrough claim for Autumn Internationals selection. Nonetheless, Farrell's decision-making is expected to balance form with familiarity, as he seeks to maintain continuity while also nurturing fresh talent.

Many of the established faces from the World Cup squad will retain their roles, but with Leinster experiencing patchy form, it remains to be seen whether Farrell maintains his reliance on the province's contingent throughout the November window. The depth of selection is being tested once again, and the integration of new players such as Edogbo and Gleeson could shape Ireland's pathway toward the 2027 Rugby World Cup cycle.

Farrell’s squad announcement also reflects a renewed emphasis on adaptability, ensuring the forwards remain sharp in collisions and the backs perfect their attacking rhythm. Ireland’s recent progress under Farrell has been defined by structure, discipline, and high-tempo execution, and this Autumn Internationals series will offer another measure of their evolution against world-class opposition.

As the countdown continues to Ireland’s clash with New Zealand, anticipation is mounting among fans eager to witness whether Doris’s leadership can inspire another historic run. The team’s mix of experience and youth provides optimism for a strong campaign, setting the stage for an intense and captivating November.

Don't miss the action this fall! Secure your Autumn International Tickets at **eticketing.co** and witness Ireland face off against New Zealand, Japan, and Australia in the 2025 Autumn Nations Series. Be part of the excitement at the Aviva Stadium and enjoy world-class rugby. Get your tickets today!